



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **RAYTOWN MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO TRAFFICKING IN COUNTERFEIT GOODS**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Raytown, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to his role in a conspiracy to traffic in counterfeit CDs and DVDs.

**Kinu Adju Mwangi**, 33, of Raytown, pleaded guilty before U.S. Chief District Judge Dean Whipple this morning to the charges contained in a March 4, 2005, federal indictment.

By pleading guilty, **Mwangi** admitted that he was trafficking in counterfeit goods from April 1 to June 1, 2004, including 174 DVDs containing unauthorized copies of motion pictures – including titles such as “Shrek 2” and “Troy” that were still playing in theaters and had not yet been released on DVD – along with 322 music CDs containing unauthorized copies of sound recordings.

“Selling counterfeit or bootleg movies and music is not a victimless crime,” Graves said. “There is a very real economic loss suffered by the artists, the producers and the sellers of legitimate works. Ultimately, honest consumers will be impacted, so we all have a stake in protecting intellectual property rights.”

According to Graves, **Mwangi** earned up to \$600 per week selling counterfeit merchandise at Nate’s 63<sup>rd</sup> Street Drive-In Swap and Shop, an open-air flea market at the 63<sup>rd</sup> Street Drive-In, 8200 E. 63<sup>rd</sup> Street in Kansas City, Mo. He received a couple of boxes each week that were shipped from New York, usually via UPS Next Day Air, each typically containing about 100 CDs and 50 DVDs. **Mwangi** paid \$3 for each counterfeit DVD, which he sold for \$10 apiece, and he paid \$1 for each counterfeit CD, which he sold for \$5 apiece. **Mwangi** also sold jewelry, clothing and other items at his booth.

Graves added that undercover law enforcement officers purchased counterfeit DVDs of

“Shrek 2” and “Troy” from **Mwangi** on May 22, 2004 – although both movies had just been released in theaters within the past week.

On May 28, 2004, law enforcement officers executed a search warrant at **Mwangi’s** residence and seized 394 CDs and DVDs affixed with counterfeit labeling.

**Mwangi**, who has been in federal custody since his arrest on April 3, 2005, remains in custody. **Mwangi** was taken into custody after law enforcement officials received a complaint of a man in the back seat of an SUV at the Zona Rosa shopping center, apparently masturbating. Police officers found the defendant with his pants down around his ankles, watching a pornographic DVD and masturbating. His activities could be seen by people outside the vehicle.

In a search at the time of **Mwangi’s** arrest, Graves said, officers recovered \$9,677 and a total of 173 DVDs and CDs contained in two binders.

By pleading guilty today, **Mwangi** also agreed to the forfeiture of the counterfeit DVDs and CDs.

Under federal statutes, **Mwangi** could be subject to a sentence of up to 20 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$2.5 million and an order of restitution. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel M. Nelson. It was investigated by the Raytown, Mo., Police Department, the Jackson County Drug Task Force, and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)